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Letter dated 24 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by Jacques Chirac, President of France, and Silvio Berlusconi, Prime Minister of Italy, in the general debate of the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, on 23 September 2003 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the present letter and the annexed statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the agenda item 9.

(*Signed*) **Pak** Gil Yon
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 24 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the President of France and the Prime Minister of Italy in the general debate on 23 September 2003

The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would like to express its great regret over the distorted and prejudiced stances taken by the President of France and the Prime Minister of Italy in their statements concerning the nuclear issue between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America. From this point of view, the delegation categorically rejects their allegations.

The nuclear issue is, in essence, an outcome of the hostile policy of the United States to isolate and stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea politically, economically and militarily. It has originated from deep-rooted hostility, denial of our system and refusal to coexist peacefully with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea remains consistent in its position to resolve the nuclear issue between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States peacefully through dialogue and negotiation. The denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is our ultimate goal, our initiative and the earnest desire of the entire Korean nation.

In line with this, at the three-party and six-party talks, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea set a goal of achieving the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and advanced realistic and reasonable proposals for the attainment of that goal. The proposal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea contains a detailed account of a package deal and the order of simultaneous actions for the comprehensive and fair solution of the nuclear issue, such as the change by the United States of its hostile policy on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the conclusion of a non-aggression treaty between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States, the renunciation of the nuclear programme and normalization of relations. Simultaneous action is a realistic means of denuclearizing the Korean peninsula, and any objection to it is tantamount to refusal.

However, the United States only reiterated its unilateral call for the renunciation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea nuclear programme first without any reference to a change of its hostile policy on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which is a key to the settlement of the nuclear issue. The United States has acted imprudently by asserting that a non-aggression treaty was not necessary. It also said that it was not interested in it.

We have already made clear our position that we will abandon our nuclear programme if the United States clearly indicates its intention of peaceful coexistence with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea through the conclusion

of a non-aggression treaty and proves in reality its change of hostile policy on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

If France and Italy are truly interested in the fair settlement of the nuclear issue, they should properly understand the true facts of the issue and urge the United States to change its hostile policy on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.